

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,171

Examiner

Jasmine J Clark

Applicant(s)

ROACH ET AL.

Art Unit

2815

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to election filed 09/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 11-~~12~~ renumbered to 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/21/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 7-10, 18-20 non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 7-10, and 18-20 have been cancelled.

References Cited

2. The references of interest are cited:

Ramsey (US 6,475,363 B1) teaches fabricating a microchip using standard photolithographic procedures and chemical etching. See abstract. Heine et al. (WO 02/094440 A2) teach relating to an integrated microchip system including for example a plurality of microchannels. However, none of the reference teaches as follows:

- a) an integrated microchip system, comprising:
a plurality of microchips containing capillary channels, edge joined together, and spring biased towards each other; and means for linearly moving the microchips against one another, wherein the capillary channels in the microchips can be connected or disconnected by the movement.
- b) a microfabricated microchip containing capillary channels; at least one miniature valve; means for connecting the at least one valve to the microchip; and an actuator.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-6, and 11-17 are allowed.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: please see the above discussion in paragraph 2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Search

4. This application was searched, in class 257, subclasses 48, and 723 (integrated microchip system), in view of disclosure here. This re-search was ineffective.

Telephone Inquiry Contacts

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasmine J Clark whose telephone number is (571) 272-1726. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

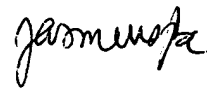
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jjbc/11/15/04

JASMINE CLARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jasmine Clark", is written below the printed name and title.